

15 November 2011

Dear Local History Committee member

### **The future of the Local History Committee**

We are writing to inform you of the changes that will take place with regard to the funding and administrative support provided to the Local History Committee by the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) from the end of this financial year.

The Local History Committee was established by GRCC in 1948, and has continued to support it ever since - indeed, it is the last remaining GRCC in England to support such a Committee. Since April 2006, GRCC has funded the Committee to the tune of £14,643. This expenditure includes mailings, photocopying, venue hire, publications and administration time presently provided by Naomi McMahon. Last financial year (April 2010 - March 2011) expenditure amounted to £3,749 against an income of £894, equating to a subsidy of £2,854.

Over the years, attempts have been made by GRCC to secure outside funding towards the support and development of the Local History Committee, but without success. GRCC feels that it is no longer able to support the Committee in its present form and will be withdrawing both financial and administrative support at the end of March 2012.

The withdrawal of this support will mean that the future of the Committee is uncertain, but in order to determine the best way forward we would like you to complete and return the attached short survey to GRCC by **Monday, 28 November**. A freepost envelope is enclosed. Alternatively an online web survey is also available and can be completed by following the link <http://www.grcc.org.uk/snap/localhistory/localhistory.html>. The results will be analysed and will aid discussions at the next Local History Committee meeting on Monday 5th December at 2pm.

Please don't hesitate to contact either of us should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully



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## Diary of events

**Monday, 5 December 2011 – Local History Committee meeting, Gloucestershire Archives, 2pm.** Presentation by Dr Ollie Taylor of the Archives staff on their contribution to the oral-history based 'Hidden Lives' Community Project in the Barton and Tredworth areas of Gloucester. This will be followed by a discussion on the future of the Committee.

**Monday, 27 February 2012 – Local History Committee meeting, Special Collections Library, Francis Close Hall, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, 2.30pm.** An opportunity to see a display of items from the Special Collections (and in particular from the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society's library, which is housed there) and a chance to 'take stock' of where we are regarding the Committee's future. **Committee members wishing to attend should contact Steve Blake ([steven.blake@deltonglos.plus.com](mailto:steven.blake@deltonglos.plus.com) or 01242 510926) to book a place.**

**Saturday, 7 July 2012 - Regional Meeting at Maisemore.** Maisemore Local History Society has kindly agreed to host and publicise this event. Details will also be included on our website ([www.gloshistory.org.uk](http://www.gloshistory.org.uk)). We are grateful to Dr Ray Wilson for agreeing to keep this valuable source of information going.

### **A number of the Committee's existing activities will cease to happen for the foreseeable future –**

1. The 2011 issue of *Gloucestershire History* will be the last, although its ISSN will be retained in case we wish to revive it at a later date.
2. The Committee's quarterly Local History Newsletters will cease until further notice.
3. There will not be a Local History Afternoon in October 2012, as this event generally takes up to a year to organise (in terms of booking speakers etc.). We have neither a venue nor any funding for this at present. This will mean that the annual Bryan Jerrard Award will also be put in abeyance.